

FESTUCA DERTONENSIS (All.) Aschers. and Graebn. Devil's Den State Park, near Winslow, Washington County, May 2, 1937, *Nielsen*, no. 4805.

PANICUM PSEUDOPUBESCENS Nash. Doddridge, Miller County, July 23, 1938, *Nielsen*.

From vegetative material taken at Doddridge on November 11, 1937, and grown to maturity at the Agricultural Experiment Station, Fayetteville.

SPHENOPHOLIS FILIFORMIS (Chapm.) Vasey. Open prairie near Harrison, Boone County, June 5, 1937, *Nielsen*, no. 4946.

The writer acknowledges the services of Mrs. Agnes Chase and Mr. J. R. Swallen, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in the identification of the above species. The cited herbarium specimens have been deposited in the Herbarium of Agronomic Plants, Department of Agronomy, University of Arkansas.—ETLAR L. NIELSEN, University of Wisconsin.

THE ORTHOGRAPHY OF "PENSYLVANICUS"

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FERNALD has twice drawn to the attention of the botanical world (RHODORA **19**: 70. 1917; RHODORA **42**: 94-95. 1940) the fact that Linnaeus, Lamarck, and others spelled with one "n" the specific epithet "*pensylvanicus*". The genera with species so named include: *Acer*, *Anemone*, *Avena* (*Trisetum*), *Cardamine*, *Carex*, *Myrica*, *Parietaria*, *Polygonum*, *Potamogeton*, *Potentilla*, *Prunus*, *Ranunculus*, *Saxifraga*, *Silene*, and *Vaccinium*.

Fernald (1940) upholds the Linnaean spelling for the following reasons: (1) The specific name *pensylvanicus* was consistently so written by Linnaeus and his contemporaries; (2) "maps of the 18th century generally show the spelling *Pensylvania*", and therefore (3) the early botanists "were not committing an orthographic error", but (4) "were following the authorized spelling of their day"; (5) "William Pen or Penn used both spellings [That the former was used was on the basis of a signature in Bellonius, *De Aquatilibus* (Paris, 1552), in the Harvard College Library. Professor S. E. Morison, of that institution, writes that the title page of this book has been torn and most of what was apparently the second 'n' has been lost]; Pepys, writing of him, used the first [Pen]".

Further investigation by the author does not change Fernald's recommendation, in line with the requirement of the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature, that the spelling with one “n” should be adopted when originally so used; but it does reveal that some of Fernald's contentions for its acceptance may bear modification and elaboration. Furthermore, the one reason alone sufficient for adopting the Linnaean spelling, namely, Latinization of the word, has not heretofore been mentioned. The present author's reconsideration permits the following comments (numerically paralleling those listed above): (1) Linnaeus (1753) was consistent in the spelling of this word. Since no variants have been found, the orthography was certainly intentional. (2) Concerning the original spelling on maps, and not in complete agreement with Dr. Fernald, Mr. H. W. Shoemaker, State Archivist at the Pennsylvania State Library, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, wrote (in a letter to Dr. J. S. Illick, New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse, New York, dated December 2, 1940) that “There is less agreement on the name of the province in the earlier years of its existence. It appears to have been spelled interchangeably with a single or a double “n” and with an “i” or a “y” in the second syllable. The Holme map, drawn about 1683, for example, has both “Pensilvania” and “Pennsylvania”. The spelling “Pensylvania” also appears in several places, among others on the Pownall map of 1776”. (3) It is unlikely, but certainly not impossible, that early botanists were committing an orthographic error. In any event, no spelling can be considered an error if it is one of several which had been in vogue, even if more than one were used in the same publication. (4) That the early botanists, as late as 1803, were following the authorized spelling of their day is not in agreement with Mr. Shoemaker's statement in the same letter that “On the whole, it would seem that there was no standard form for the name of the province in those early years, but that the present form gradually became the accepted one during the eighteenth century”. “From an historical standpoint [Mr. Shoemaker continues, in a letter to the author, February 28, 1941] ‘Pensilvania’ is to be preferred to ‘Pennsylvania’, since it was more commonly used. The spelling ‘Pennsylvania’ was used much less frequently than either of the other variants.” (5) In respect to

the spelling of the family name, Mr. Shoemaker writes in the earlier letter "there seems to be no authority whatever for any other form than 'Penn'. All the biographers of William Penn and his father agree on that spelling without mentioning any other, and the signatures of the Founder also show the double 'n' ". Prof. Morison adds the fact, however, in a letter of February 12, 1941, that "Gottfried Arnold, who wrote the first German biography . . . uses one 'n'. The name itself comes from the Welsh 'pen' meaning hill, and there is no doubt that it was originally spelled that way". Since the early botanists, nevertheless, named their plants after the province, not after the man, the spelling of the family name is actually irrelevant to the case at hand.

Apart from the more or less non-pertinent contentions listed above, and in full solution of the problem at hand, it is to be noted that in such Linnaean (1753, 1781) and Michauxian (1803) distribution phrases as "Habitat in Pennsylvania", the Latin language is used throughout. According to Dr. P. O. Place and Dr. E. B. Lay of the Latin Department, Syracuse University, in the Latinization of such a word as Pennsylvania a second "n" tends to be dropped before a syllable beginning with a consonant, the "y" and the "i" are interchangeable, the former being a Greek influence and popular in mediaeval Latin, and the termination "icus" is an adjectival form meaning "belonging to". In conclusion, it appears that "pensylvanicus" is a correct Latinization of *any* of the several variants known in English during the 18th century, and as such should be freed of the vernacularization that illegitimately was imposed upon it by certain 19th century botanists.

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